REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The present application has been subjected to a restriction requirement under 35 U.S.C. 121. In this respect, the Examiner has identified the following four (4) groups of inventions:

GROUP I: Claims 1-6 and 18-22, drawn to a method of modeling business processes used to assign credit.

GROUP II: Claims 7-13, drawn to a method for implementing a network of interconnected business processes.

GROUP III: Claims 14-17, drawn to a system of distributed process control of interconnected processes using a plurality of management modules.

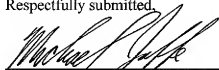GROUP IV: Claim 23, drawn to a system of process management of interconnected processes.

The applicant hereby elects, without traverse, the invention of Group I identified above. The unelected claims, i.e., claims 7-13; 14-17; and 23 are cancelled by the present amendment. However, the applicant reserves the right to resubmit the unelected claims in one or more divisional applications.

Claims 1 and 18 have been amended to more clearly define the applicant's invention in association with operation of a fossil fuel power plant. Moreover, it is respectfully submitted that newly added dependent claims 24-32 (which depend from independent claim 1) and newly added dependent claims 33-41 (which depend from independent claim 18) are associated with the elected invention of Group I. Furthermore, claim 6 has now been cancelled. Thus, the applicant looks forward to receiving an examination on the merits of *claims 1-5; 18-22; and 24-41* in response to the election made herein.

If any further issues need to be addressed at this time, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned.

If there are any fees necessitated by the foregoing communication, please charge such fees to our Deposit Account No. 50-0537, referencing our Docket No. NC9441US.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: **April 28, 2008**

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